



February



2026

Pastor: Rev. Jackie Short ~ (507) 517-0769 ~ pastor.highlandprairie.elstad@gmail.com
Parish Administrator: Courtney Lee
Parish Office: (507) 864-2731 ~ elstadhighlandprairieparish@gmail.com



February Office Hours

Pastor Jackie is typically be in the office on Wednesdays 8-4 pm.
Call or email to set up a time to connect.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EHP PARISH OFFICE

ADMINISTRATOR COURTNEY LEE

Dear Congregation,
The first month of 2026 has already come to an end, and it feels like it was just beginning! As always, it has been a busy time in the office.
I wanted to take a moment to share how much I have truly enjoyed stepping into the role of Parish Administrator. It has been a blessing getting to know many of you and serving our congregations in this new way.
As we continue settling into the new year, we are actively working on cleaning up and updating our membership records. If you have not yet filled out a Member Update Form, I kindly ask that you do so—even if you have been a member for several years. Keeping our records accurate helps us serve you better.
Copies of the form are available at both churches. I am also happy to email or mail a form to you if that is more convenient—just let me know.
Thank you for your time and continued support.

Blessings,
Courtney
Parish Administrator



Ways you can say YES to Help your church

There are so many ways to help your church through service. Jesus calls us each day to give of ourselves for the sake of others. Whether big or small, every act of service makes a difference. How can you give of yourself?

Highland Prairie Repair List

- Exterior Light by Church Offie
- Refinish and Stain Communion Rail
- ADA Bathroom Downstairs
- Repair Roadside Chapel Windows
- Paint Exterior Church Doors
- ADA Bathroom Upstairs
- Clean Air Vents in Church
- Repair Hole in Foundation of the Resthouse
- Paint Exterior of Roadside Chapel
- Paint Exteriors of Resthouse and Shelter
- Repair Log Cabin (Putty Windows and Raise Floor)
- Paint Metal Entryway Arch
- Replace Benches in Bowl and add back support
- Repair/Replace Bowl Shelter and Concrete
- Stain Alter Area & Steps in the Bowl
- Paint Interior of Roadside chapel
- Replace Carpet in the Roadside Chapel
- Repair Marquee at the Entrance 19.
- Repair/Replace Electrical in Roadside Chapel

Worship

We all have our own talents, and we would like to use yours!

Listed below are most of the ways you can serve:

- Communion Server
- Greeter
- Reader
- Acolyte (Confirmation students)
- Usher (Kenneth Bakkum & Gary Rustad Lead Ushers)
- Worship Record-Videographer
- Offering Count with Treasurer
- Chancel Flowers
- Special Music
- Advent Family

February Highland Prairie Communion Servers

2/1/26	10:30am	David Markegard	Green
2/8/26	10:30am	Val Howe	Green
2/15/26	10:30am	Chellsey Lind	White
2/18/26	5:00pm	Brenda Markegard	Purple
2/22/26	10:30am	Sharon Boyum	Purple

Parish Happenings



Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1: Noah Carlson, Glenn Thomas,
Ellen Highum, Brady Stensgard | 15: Michael Halverson, Emily Johnson, Michael Rein |
| 2: Pr. Jackie Short, Jeff Mueller,
Avery Rodger, Briella Rodger | 16: Jennifer Yonts |
| 3: Trent Eide, Sylvi Olson | 17: Rylee Nelson |
| 4: Megan Fox | 18: Ava Paulson |
| 7: Murton Boyum, Delane Horning | 20: Gerald Hallum, Michael Evenson Jr,
Joseph Evenson |
| 9: Allan Skalet, Robert Knutson, Andrew Howe,
Courtney Dahl, Cooper Hovland | 21: Wayne Finnegan, Erick James, Marissa Grimsrud, |
| 10: Patty Olson | 22: Kenna Gudmundson, Lilah Bakke |
| 13: David Markegard | 23: Ann Meldahl, Linda Hundorf, Tye Anderson |
| 14: Val Gudmundson | 24: Stephanie Evenson |
| | 25: Michele James |

Anniversaries

- 16: Randy and Kari Drinkall
20: Pr. Jackie & Jeff Short



We love to celebrate with you, if we have missed somebody's Birthday or Anniversary, please email the church office so we can add them to the list!



Council Meetings ...

February Council Meeting @ Highland Prairie

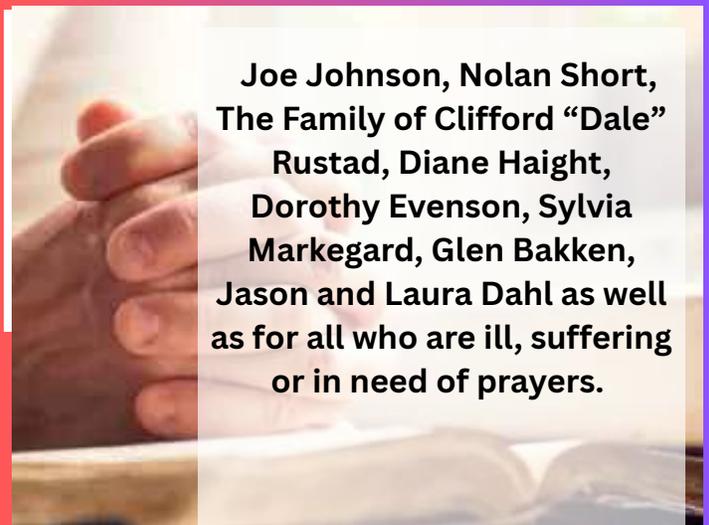
Sunday February 8th

Highland Prairie Council Meeting: 12:30pm



In our Prayers

Joe Johnson, Nolan Short, The Family of Clifford "Dale" Rustad, Diane Haight, Dorothy Evenson, Sylvia Markegard, Glen Bakken, Jason and Laura Dahl as well as for all who are ill, suffering or in need of prayers.





Ash Wednesday Service

2/18/26

Highland Prairie 5pm

Elstad 7pm

Lent Services

2/25/26 Soup Supper Lent Service 6pm @ Elstad

3/4/26 Soup Supper Lent Service 6pm @ HP

3/11/26 Soup Supper Lent Service 6pm @ Elstad

3/18/26 Soup Supper Lent Service 6pm @ HP

3/25/26 Soup Supper Lent Service 6pm @ Elstad

4/2/26 Maundy Thursday 7pm @ Elstad

4/3/26 Good Friday 7pm @ HP

2026 Parish Council

Elstad

Officers

President: Gene Topness

Vice President: Matt Nelson

Council Secretary: Tanya Wolfs

Treasurer: Jennifer Nepstad

Trustees

Kathy Abrahamson

Morgan Knutson

Trent Eide

Highland Prairie

Officers

President: Val Howe

Vice President: Kristi Gudmundson

Council Secretary: Mary Gudmundson

Treasurer: Courtney Lee

Trustees

Robert Anfinson

Amy Jacobson

Chellsey Lind

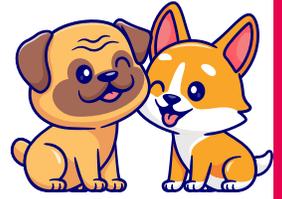
Mitchell Paulson

Mike Pepin



February Ministry

Everything for our Fur babies



This month our ministry focus will be on our little fur babies.



- Dog Food
- Cat Food
- Rabbit Food
- Hamper Food
- Treats
- Toys
- Kitty Litter



Don't forget about your BUCKETS OF BLESSINGS

A joyful, hands-on stewardship campaign inviting all members and friends of our congregation's to care for our church home. Just as drops of water can fill a bucket, the small gifts we share; spare change, extra dollars, or folded bills—add up to make a big impact.



Together, we can "Repair & Restore: One Pail at a Time."



How It Works

- Each household is invited to bring home a Buckets of Blessings pail from the back table.
- Throughout the year, you are all encouraged to place spare change, extra cash, or intentional gifts into their buckets.
- When your bucket is full bring it to church as an offering of gratitude and support and place it in the large pail up front. If your pail is for a specific mission leave it up front and grab another bucket.



We are looking for help with shoveling at the churches. We have a sign-up sheet for those interested helping out. If this is something you are interested in helping with, please fill out the information sheet. They will be located on the information tables at both churches.



Women of the ELCA

Highland Prairie 

ELSTAD 



Good Shepherd Birthday Party!!
Monday, March 2nd @ 2:00pm



Elstad WELCA will be serving coffee after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Reach out to Carolyn Smith with any questions.

Highland Prairie WELCA will be serving coffee before the 10:30 a.m worship service. Reach out to Mary Gudmundson to sign-up to host fellowship.



Growth and Education



The Leah Circle will meet on at 2pm at Park Lane. We use the bible study is from “The Gather” magazine, all are welcomed to join. Reach out to Carol Dixon for more information if interested in joining.

The Esther Circle will meet at 9:30am at the Haight Home. Reach out to Ruth Abrahamson for more information if interested in joining.

Elizabeth Circle meets at 8:45am at Park Lane Contact Lori Bakke for more information.

Naomi Bible Study: will meet at 6:30 pm in 2/24/26 at Elstad. Grab your bible and join us on as we exploring and engage with the bible through conversation, study and “Bible Journaling”.

WELCA Bible Study: 1st Wednesday 1:30pm @ Highland Prairie

HP Quilting and potluck 2nd Tuesday of the month starting at 9:30am

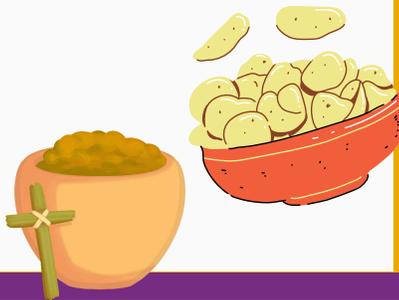


Youth & Family

Super Sunday!!!

2/8/26

Wear your favorite sports team to church!



BIG Prizes!

GAME DAY

FEBRUARY 8TH 2026 | 2:30 PM

SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
31497 MN-43, RUSHFORD

BOLD moves

Elstad Sunday School
Sunday school this month will be on February 1st and February 15th.

Education



CONFIRMATION



SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

- Feb 4: 6:30pm @ HP
- Feb 11: 6:30pm @ HP
- Feb 18: Ash Wednesday 5pm @ HP
7pm @ Elstad
- Feb 25: Lenten Service 6:00pm @ Elstad

Parents please remind your student to keep up on their sermon notes. During the holidays if you are worshipping with family in another congregation you can make notes on your bulletin and hand it in for credit.

Highland Prairie Council Meeting Minutes

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church Council Meeting
January 11th 2026

President Val Howe called the meeting to order at 12:36pm.

Council Members present were Kristi Gudmundson, Val Howe, Mike Pepin, David Markegard, Chellsey Lind, Robert Anfinson, Courtney Lee. Mary Gudmundson and Amy Jacoson were absent.

Devotions were given by Val Howe

A quorum was determined

Motion to approve the agenda was made by David M, Chellsey L second. Motion carried.

Congregation members wishing to address the council. None.

Treasurer's Report was given by Courtney Lee for December. December Income \$17, 892.65 and Expenses was \$11,365.15. Year to Date Income was \$91,225.31 and Year to Date

Expense \$102,753.40. Giving the first week in January was over \$10,000. Looking into new software called Shephard Staff for financial and membership. Motion made by Mike P and Kristi G second. Motion carried.

President's Report - None

Pastor's Report - Will be presented at Parish council

Correspondence: None

Committee Report.

Church Committee - There is ice damming on the church roof because of no vapor barrier and needs more insulation above the ceiling. Heat tape will be purchased to put on the roof.

Grounds Committee - Looking into grinding stumps of fallen trees from summer storms in spring.

Worship Committee - Made a budget. Job assignments for the new year. Bringing to the annual meeting to discuss the cost of different options for Altar candles.

Youth & Education - Board of Education will meet next week to discuss more options of doing Sunday School.

Old Business:

Biesanz Stones: more discussion on uses for stones and a church member offers to buy the stones if council finds no use for the stones.

New Business:

Approve use of the Memorial and Building MM of \$8175 to pay for the roof project. Motion made by Mike P and second by Chellsey L. Motion carried

Approving a pay increase for our Organist for 2026. Motion made by Kristi G and second by Chellsey L. Motion carried.

Approving \$250 gift card for Pastor Jackie for xmas gift. Motion made by Val H and second by Kristi G. Motion carried.

The upper parking lot lights are not working and need repair. Quotes will be looked into and emailed to the council to move forward with repair for safety concerns. Motion made by David M and second by Chellsey L. Motion carried.

Discussion on snowplowing and salting. If we need extra salting, the custodian will contact the company.

Approved the 2026 Budget to present at the annual meeting. The church budget is \$119,950.

Motion made by Val H and second by Kristi G. Motion carried.

The secretary's report was read. Motion made by Kristi G and second by Chellsey L. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn with Lord's Prayer at 2:40pm was made by Chellsey L and second by David M. Motion carried.

Submitted by Val Howe

Next meeting Feb. 8th, 12:30 pm at Highland Prairie.

Elstad Lutheran Council Meeting

Elstad Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Highland Prairie Lutheran Church

The meeting was called to order by President Gene Topness at 6:32 p.m.

Roll call: Council members present were Gene Topness, Jennifer Nepstad, Matt Nelson, Amber Arends and Tanya Wolfs. Pastor Jackie Short was also present. Morgan Knutson and Kathy Abrahamson were absent. A Quorum was called.

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Matt Nelson, seconded by Amber Arends. Motion carried.

Congregation members present to address the council: None

Pastor's report: No additional report at this time.

Treasurer's Report: The audited 2025 financial report was reviewed. Matt Nelson made a motion to approve, seconded by Amber Arends. The report will be reviewed with the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

President's report: None

Correspondence received: None

Old business:

- No old business to discuss.

New business:

- 2026 budget - The council reviewed and set the 2026 budget. It will be voted on and approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- 2026 projects - The council discussed church repairs that should be addressed this year, including ceiling tile in the bell tower, church walls, and interior/exterior paint.
- 2026 staff - Reviewed the positions up for election on this year's annual meeting ballot.

The secretary's report was given. Motion to approve was made by Amber Arends, seconded by Matt Nelson. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Amber Arends, seconded by Matt Nelson. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Next council meeting is at Elstad on Sunday, March 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Tanya Wolfs, Council Secretary

Parish Council Meeting

Elstad- Highland Prairie Parish Council Meeting
January 11th 2026

President Val Howe called the meeting to order at 5:33pm

Council Members present were Kristi Gudmundson, Val Howe, Mike Pepin, David Markegard, Chellsey Lind, Robert Anfinson, Courtney Lee, Amber Arends, Tanya Wolfs, Jennifer Nepstad, Matt Nelson, Gene Topness Mary Gudmundson and Amy Jacoson, Morgan Knutson and Kathy Abrahamson were absent.

Devotions were given by Val Howe

A quorum was determined

Motion to approve the agenda with correction to add new church software to new business was made by David M, Chellsey L second. Motion carried.

Congregation members wishing to address the council. None.

President's Report - Gene T thanked all council members going off council for their service.

Pastor's Report - In the month of December Pastor had 10 worship services, 6 visits, 2 Nursing Home Worship, 2 Pastoral Care, 1 funeral and 1 Baptism. Pastor Jackie will be on Vacation on March 1st, 4th, and 8th.

Youth - Confirmation is being held at Highland Prairie now. Still working with other area churches to have their youth join the Valley Youth Group.

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

2026 Church Calendar - review calendar and correction to present at the church's annual meeting. Motion made by Gene T and second by Matt N. Motion carried.

Discussion of what repairs at the Parsonage that need to be done after winter. New screen doors, door knobs and a small entry porch is sinking and needs to be raised.

New Business:

External electric meter for the Parsonage to get correct wattage. Will get quotes for a meter and

email the Parish council to get this done as soon as possible. Motion made by Amber A and second by Chellsey L. Motion carried.

Fixing light above garage at Parsonage - it was determined it did not need to be fixed.

Shepherd Staff - New software for both church membership and HP financial. Courtney L will meet with Shepherd Staff on Tuesday Jan. 13th to discuss the software and get answers to questions that the Parish council have and email the Parish council with the answers to their questions.

The secretary's report was read. Motion made by Kristi G and second by David M. Motion carried.

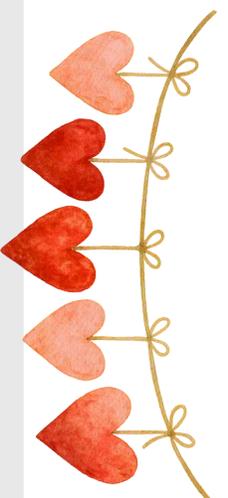
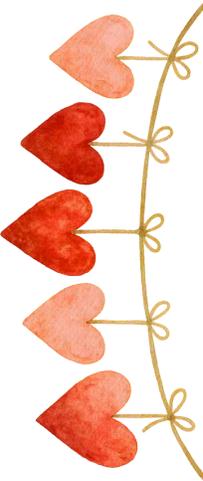
A motion to adjourn with Lord's Prayer at 6:26pm was made by Mike P and second by Amber A. Motion carried.

Submitted by Val Howe

Next meeting March 8th, 5:30 pm at Elstad.

February

2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Elstad W: 9 am SS: 9:45am Highland Prairie W: 10:30am</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pastor Jackie's Birthdays!</p> <p>Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Worship Committee Meeting 6:30pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Pr. Jackie Office 8-4 Elizabeth Circle 8:30am HP Bible Study 1:30pm Confirmation @ Highland Prairie 6:30-8 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Esther Circle 9:30am Bulletin Items Due!</p>		
<p>8</p> <p>Elstad W: 9 am Highland Prairie W: 10:30am</p> <p>Youth grades 6-12 Game Day @ St John's Lutheran Church 2:30pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am</p>	<p>10</p> <p>WELCA Quilting @ HP 9:30am Leah Circle 2:00 pm Education Committee Meeting 5:30pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pr. Jackie Office 8-4 Confirmation @ Highland Prairie 6:30-8 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Bulletin Items Due!</p>		<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day!</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Elstad W: 9 am SS: 9:45am Highland Prairie W: 10:30am</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Newsletter Items Due!</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pr. Jackie Office 8-4 Ash Wednesday Services HP:5p Elstad:7p</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Bulletin Items Due!</p>		
<p>22</p> <p>Elstad W: 9 am Highland Prairie W: 10:30am</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Bible Study @ Bethlehem 9:30am</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Naomi Bible Study @ HP 6:30pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Pr. Jackie Office 8-4 Lent Service @Elstad Soup Supper @ 6pm Service @ 7pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Bulletin Items Due!</p>		
						<p>28</p>

Elstad Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish

43267 Bowl Drive

Peterson, MN 55962



**Highland Prairie
Acolytes/Readers/Greeters**

Sunday, February 4, 2026

Acolyte: Bella Westby

Readers: Bella Westby

Greeters:

Sunday, February 11, 2026

Acolyte: Dominic Humble

Readers: Dominic Humble

Greeters:

Sunday, February 18, 2026

Acolytes: Hudson Lee

Readers: Hudson Lee

Greeters:

Sunday, February 25, 2026

Acolytes: Bricker Dahl

Readers: Brody Gellersen

Greeters:

Elstad ~ Highland Prairie Lutheran Parish
Visit our websites at...
elstادلutheranchurch.org
highlandprairielutheranchurch.org

**Elstad
Acolytes/Readers/Ushers**

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Acolyte: Quentin Daniels

Readers: Quentin Daniels

Greeters: Tanya Wolfs

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Acolyte: Nolan Eide

Readers: Nolan Eide

Greeters:

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Acolytes: Norah Eide

Readers: Norah Eide

Greeters:

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Acolytes: Mason Wolfs

Readers: Mason Wolfs

Greeters: